

Biological Classification

Taxonomy = science of naming organisms and assigning them to groups

- Linnaeus established a classification system
- Each organism has a two-part name in Latin

- First part is its genus
- Second part refers to one particular species
 - Species = smallest group in the classification system of organisms that share similar characteristics and interbreed in nature
- Example: catlike animals
 - Bobcat = Felis refus
 - Housecat = Felis domesticus
 - Same genus, different species

Dichotomous Key = pairs of opposing questions or statements about observable traits that eventually lead to the identity of an object or organism

- Always split into 2 groups
- Objects must belong in one or the other